

CENTER *for* WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES



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Newsletter of the CENTER *for* WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Director's Column

by Susan Sage Heinzelman
June 2008

I am delighted to be taking over the directorship of CWGS for the coming year while Gretchen takes a well-deserved break from day-to-day operations. It seems appropriate that, as the incoming Interim Director of CWGS whose theme for next year is *Global Feminisms*, I should be writing this column from Australia. I am here visiting my daughter who lives near Brisbane, and it did not take long to realize how parochial we can be about what we consider the most important issues of contemporary feminism. For us, the campaign of a woman who might have become the next President of the United States has taken up all of our attention. Media coverage has frequently distracted our interest from Hillary Clinton's platform; moreover, we have come to expect, sadly, that any woman who succeeds in a traditional male field must expect this extra scrutiny. Not so here in Australia where women make up 26.5 percent of the Australian Government Parliament. This is almost double the international average of 15.7 percent. And if we expect that it will be a western democracy that will lead the way in promoting women in political power, we will be disappointed: it is in Rwanda that we find the highest percentage of women in political office.

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New Interim Director Susan Heinzelman stands with Stacey Wolf, Jill Dolan, Ann Cvetkovich, and Gretchen Ritter. Stacey and Jill were named CWGS Contributors of the Year for 2007-2008.

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annual theme
women's and gender studies



2008

Our annual theme for the 2008-2009 academic year is *Global Feminisms*. Our workshops, conferences, colloquia, and film screenings are always open to the entire UT community and the general public.

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/events/>

CWGS Event Highlights

October 2007: **"Gender Balance in Computing: Can't We Do Better?"** Jan Cuny, Professor at the University of Oregon and Program Director for the Broadening Participation in Computing Program for the National Science Foundation, addressed the relatively small role women play in Information Technology. During recent decades, Computer Science was the only science to show a marked decrease in the representation of women. Dr. Cuny examined evidence for the causes of under representation of women in computing as well as potential remedies, including those funded under a new National Science Foundation initiative.

November 2007: **"Femocrats, Gender, and Judicial Selection: the Inside Story,"** a lecture by Sally J. Kenney. Dr. Kenney is a Professor at The University of Minnesota, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Director of the Center on Women and Public Policy. Her research interests include judicial selection, feminist social movements, the European Court of Justice, exclusionary employment policies, and pregnancy discrimination.

January 2008: **Nancy Keenan**, President of NARAL Pro-Choice America, delivered an address marking the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision *Roe v. Wade*. The event provided a comprehensive and thought-provoking look at Roe today and what the future holds for reproductive rights in the United States.

February 2008: **Naomi Wolf**, author of *The Beauty Myth*, headed a panel presentation on "Beauty and Self-Esteem in Society: Freeing Ourselves and the Next Generation." Co-sponsored with the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership, the event focused on encouraging women to rethink their definition of beauty and see themselves in a healthier and more positive light.

February 2008: **Women Decide 2008: Agenda for Women's Health.** Co-sponsored with Legal Momentum, the LBJ Library and Museum and the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, this roundtable discussion examined the nexus between state and national political policy and the ability for women and girls of all socioeconomic classes to access comprehensive quality health care.

March 2008: **Power Ladder Politics: Negotiating the Evolving Obstacles to Women's Leadership** - a panel discussion among leaders in

higher education, business, law, and science on keeping the talent pipeline full and bringing academic theory to practice in the workplace. Co-sponsored with Andrews Kurth LLP-Women's Initiative Team and the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law.

April 2008: **Perspectives on Gender and Technology: an Interdisciplinary Conference.** Dr. Lucy Suchman, Professor and Co-director at the Centre for Science Studies at Lancaster University, England, gave the keynote address, "Agencies in Technology Design: Feminist Reconfigurations." Featured speakers included Dr. Eileen Trauth, Professor of Information Society at Pennsylvania State University; Dr. Debra Howcroft, Professor at Manchester Business School, University of Manchester; and Rachel Muir, founder and Executive Director of Girlstart, a non-profit organization founded to empower girls in math, science, engineering and technology.

Director's Column – Continued

Women make up 48.8 percent of seats in the lower house of Parliament, a higher percentage than in the legislative bodies of countries like Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway, known for their progressive policies. While no national parliament in the world has full equality in the number of seats held by women and men, the USA is particularly under-represented (it ranks in the bottom 25 percent of all countries in the world), and only 39 nation states have ever selected a woman as prime minister or president.

It is particularly important, then, that our 2008-2009 theme, *Global Feminisms*, will help to open our eyes to the ways in which women across the world have advanced both their own particular cultural agendas and the shared concerns of women. Through the academic year, we will screen films made and produced by women, focusing on the social and medical problems faced by women in all cultures. We will also schedule workshops and talks to investigate the ways in which women in the US can learn from women around the world – rather than thinking only in terms of what we might offer them. The similarities between women's position in the US and other nations might yield useful strategies for our own insistence on women's representation (both in political and cultural terms). But we should never forget that our differences are also crucial in teaching us new strategies: the more we learn about those who are not like us, the more we are likely to understand our own lives. I invite you all to join with us this year in learning how best to promote the well-being of women across the globe.

At Home in Women's Studies

by Lynn C. Miller

When I arrived at The University of Texas in 1980 as an assistant professor, women's studies was neither a major nor an area but merely a committee of interested faculty from across the campus. We had no budget, no courses, and the extensive network of affiliate faculty we enjoy now was far in the future. I remember attending meetings chaired by the intrepid BJ Fernea from Middle Eastern Studies. Our group was truly modeled on the kitchen table concept—any empty room with a table and chairs with our loose coalition seated around it became organization central! As money was uncertain, depending upon the whim and favor of the Dean of Liberal Arts, our main activities centered around sharing our work and a speakers series which brought programs and scholars to campus. While nascent, this loose organization was an inspiring and important part of mentorship and collegiality at UT for (mostly) women faculty and an increasing number of students.



In 1981, Professor Jane Marcus of English hosted an international conference on Virginia Woolf, attended by a large number of national and international scholars. Woolf's nephew Quentin Bell was in attendance from Britain and gave one of the keynote addresses. This conference, ambitious in scope and outcome, seemed to me a turning point for women's studies, literally giving the coalition a footprint in institutional memory. From this point, the guest lectures became more frequent, the symposia bringing students and faculty together broadened, and an actual budget from Liberal Arts Dean Robert King appeared on the books. This did not mean that subsequent directors like Professor Lucia Gilbert didn't have to continue to lobby for money and resources, but I do recall an increased legitimacy. The importance of this conference may be more a function of my memory

than reality, but it remains in my mind as a landmark.

When I first came to UT in the Department of Speech Communication, I was the only woman faculty member in the half of the department that later became Communication Studies. The politics of race, gender, and sexuality at that time were most decidedly in the closet. In fact, a Ph.D. student in another department in the early '80s was dismissed over the furor resulting from her having invited gay speakers in a class she taught—the fracas began when a student who had a parent in the Texas Legislature took offense at a speaker and ended with the graduate student's dismissal and the departure of her advisor. So my talks at this time with faculty I considered mentors—Jane Marcus, Desley Deacon, Lucia Gilbert—mattered incredibly to me. Each of these three women at one time or another related a version of the following to me: "For many of us who struggle with support in our own departments, Women's Studies is our home." That statement encapsulated my feeling exactly. Faculty that I met through this network, for example Professors Carol MacKay and Laura Furman of English, Janet Staiger of RTF, Graduate Dean Victoria Rodriguez, and the current WGS director, Gretchen Ritter, became my colleagues in every way even though we were housed in different departments.

The 1990's and early years of the current century raised the stakes for Women's Studies, which expanded into Women's and Gender Studies. The establishing of the annual graduate student conference on emerging scholarship in women's and gender studies, the blossoming of interdisciplinary portfolio programs for Ph.D. students (and later, for Master's students), more student input on the Steering Committee and other committees, and overall involvement across the campus kept raising the profile of WGS. I was happy to serve as the first graduate advisor to the new M.A. program in WGS. Beginning in 2001 as our first formal degree program, the M.A. represented a big push forward under Director Desley Deacon, fully realized when we welcomed our first class in fall of 2001 under Director Janet Staiger.

I'm quite sure I wouldn't have survived 27 years at The University of Texas without Women's and Gender Studies. The annual fall and spring WGS receptions, and the various conferences scheduled between them, became academic touchstones of the year for me,

(Continued on page 10)

Academic News: WGS Portfolio Program

The **WGS Portfolio Program** is open to all graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin. Currently, there are approximately thirty students in the WGS Portfolio Program. The influence of their experiences in the program is often reflected in students' thesis or dissertation work.

What is the WGS Portfolio Program?

-The Portfolio Program is an opportunity for graduate students from all disciplines to incorporate Women's and Gender Studies into their coursework.
-The WGS Portfolio Program is available to all graduate students. M.A. and Ph.D. students have similar requirements.
-When the program is completed, the student's official UT transcript will read "Portfolio in Women's & Gender Studies." A printed certificate from CWGS is also available upon request.

What are the requirements?

-Students may enter the portfolio program at any point in their graduate work, but it is recommended that they register in the program with WGS as early as possible. Portfolio Registration is available online at:
https://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/graduate/portfolio_reg/index/
-Subscription to wgs-grads@utlists.utexas.edu
Students are responsible for keeping in touch with the WGS office. Information is distributed via list serve.
-Attendance and presentation of a scholarly paper at the Annual WGS Student Conference in early April. Paper submissions are accepted December through February.

-Completion of Course Requirements

Course Requirements

-WGS Courses or courses that meet with WGS will be counted. Courses may not be taken pass/fail or credit/no credit.
-MASTER'S: Completion of 3 courses for 9 hours credit in approved graduate level WGS courses with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better in the courses.
-DOCTORAL: Completion of 4 courses for 12 hours credit in approved graduate level WGS courses with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better in the courses.
-No more than one course may be taken as an independent study/conference course, except in unusual circumstances.
-This is an interdisciplinary program. At least two courses must be taken in TWO different departments outside of the student's home department.

WGS Faculty and Course Information

-You can search by faculty in your college/dept:
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/faculty/college/>
-Search in the Course Schedule under "WGS" for courses
-Contact the Graduate Coordinator at 512 475-7858.

WGS Portfolio Student News:

Caitlin Collins (Radio-Television-Film, M.A.) presented at the University of Texas American Studies Graduate Conference with a paper titled "The Crisis Over American National Identity in *Hostel*". She also presented "Homosocial Group Adventures amongst Women in *Death Proof*, *The Descent*, and *Hostel: Part II*" at the National Popular Culture Association Conference, as well as at the 15th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference.

Hortencia Jimenez (Sociology, Ph.D.) was a 2007-2008 National Science Foundation award recipient, receiving \$23,000. She presented the following paper at the 15th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference: "Female Immigrants are More Passive," a study of the 2006 student walkouts in central Texas.

Christine Labuski (Anthropology, Ph.D.) was awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Rice University's Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, to begin Fall 2008.

Christina Murphey (Nursing, Ph.D.) presented a poster at the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) in Birmingham, AL and another at the Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM) in Greensboro, NC, for which she received a student travel scholarship. Also, she was one of several Texas nurses to be named as a Texas Nurses Association (TNA) Future Leader.

Jacqueline Vickery (Radio-Television-Film, M.A.) presented two papers at the Southwest Texas Popular/American Culture Associations Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February 2008. In March, she also presented a paper on "Challenging Dominant Discourse: SEX, etc and Contemporary Teenage Sexuality" at the National PCA/ACA Conference in San Francisco. Lastly, she presented at the Console-ing Passions 2008 Conference, University of California Santa Barbara, on a panel called "Teen TV and Girls' Blogs." Her paper was titled "Strangers in a Virtual World: Negotiating Identity on Girls' Blogs."

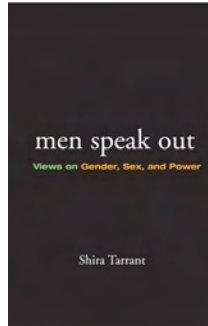
Alyxandra Vesey (Radio-Television-Film, M.A.) presented the following conference papers, "I'm Not a Prophet, They Just Want the Profit: Contending National Identity Post-9/11 in American Underground Hip-Hop" in 2007 at the UT American Studies Conference, "Capitalism Sells Terrorism: M.I.A. and the Disruptive Potential of Art, Music, and Fashion" in 2008 at the PCA/ACA National Conference, and "You'll Never Know What I Feel Inside: Representations of Girlhood and Womanhood in the Music Videos of the Directors Label Series" in 2008 at the 15th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference.

Hulya Yildiz (Comparative Literature, Ph.D.) presented a paper on the "Literary Public Sphere of Ottoman Women in the Nineteenth Century Istanbul" at the Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference (MESA 2007) in Montreal, Canada.

CWGS MA Student News

Kritika Agarwal received acceptances from the Women's Studies program at UCLA and the American Studies program at SUNY- Buffalo.

Kyle Brillante (M.A. 2007) writes of personal experience in his article "Engendering the Classroom: Experiences of a Man in Women's and Gender Studies," featured in *Men Speak Out: Views on Gender, Sex and Power* (Routledge, 2008).



Rachel Citron presented her paper "All's Fair in Love and Sports: Girl Athletes, Film, and the Social Construction of Femininity" at the 2008 Popular Culture Association Conference, March 19-22, 2008, in San Francisco, CA.

Lea Engle presented her paper "Embracing the Geek: Increasing Women's Confidence in Web Development via e-Learning" at the Perspectives on Gender and Technology Conference, April 11, 2008, The University of Texas at Austin.

Ima Kurniasanti presented her paper "Politicization of Mass Rapes Victims' 1998 in Indonesia" at the 7th Annual East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region, Honolulu, February 2008.

Paul Michels participated in a conference presentation held in Las Vegas for the Southwestern Social Science Association and their affiliate, the Southwest Gender Studies Association. He also participated in Professor Richard Cherwitz's Intellectual Entrepreneurship program and mentored an undergraduate intern. They each received a \$400.00 travel grant to attend an ethnography conference in North Carolina.

Michiko Niori's 2008 Thesis, *F-2 Visa – Journey to Invisibility: Asian International Graduate Students' Wives at the University of Texas at Austin* is being considered in the planning conversations surrounding the future of the University Apartments at UT, which are in jeopardy.

Azure Osborne-Lee presented her paper "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Representation of Old, Black Women in Modern Film" at the 15th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference here at UT Austin.

CWGS MA Student, Ima Kurniasanti presents at the 7th Annual East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference.



Gabriela Redwine presented at the Electronic Literature Organization's 2008 Visionary Landscapes Conference. Her panel was titled "An Archival Approach to Curating Born-Digital and Electronic LiteMaterials" and at the GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections (ALMS) 2008 Conference, with a paper titled, "The Ethics of Context: Representing Queer Literary Holdings at the Harry Ransom Center." Gabriela will also be presenting at the Society of American Archivists, August 26-30, 2008, with her paper "An Acquisitions Narrative: The Practical and Theoretical Challenges Presented by Norman Mailer's Electronic Records."

Josie Smith had her paper "The Importance of the Body as a Place in Literature for Transgendered Adolescents" accepted to the Louisiana Graduate Conference on Language and Literature, Lafayette, LA, February 2008.

Shirin Sultana was selected to attend the Fulbright Seminar this spring in Providence, RI. The theme for this year's seminar was *Engaging the Electorate: The Dynamics of Politics and Participation in 2008*.

Gretchen Voter presented at two conferences sponsored by CWGS: the Perspectives on Gender and Technology Conference; and the 15th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference. The title of her paper was "The 'Nurturing Mother' and Mizuko Kuyō: Women's Agency, Postwar Gender Ideologies, and Generational Transitions in Japanese Abortion Practice." Gretchen was also awarded a Program Coordinator position at the Humanities Institute for 2008-2009.

Kris Wright presented his paper "Comic Books as Discursive Space" at the 2008 Popular Culture Association Conference, March 19-22, 2008, in San Francisco, CA.

CWGS Faculty Affiliate News

Kamran Ali (Middle Eastern Studies) has published several articles including: "Urban Visions of the Margins." Special Issue of the Journal *Social Text*, Guest Edited by Kamran Asdar Ali and Martina Rieker: *Social Text*, Volume 95, May 2008

"Gendering Urban Space in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa". Kamran Asdar Ali and Martina Rieker Editors. Edited Volume. Palgrave Press. Publication Date: May 2008.

Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert WGS Teaching Excellence Award honors faculty members with outstanding records of undergraduate and/or graduate teaching in Women's and Gender Studies. One award is given each year, alternating between non-tenured faculty members (Assistant Professor or Lecturer) and tenured faculty members (Associate or Full Professor).

For the 2007-08 academic year, Dr. **Noël Busch-Armendariz (Social Work)** received the Gilbert WGS Teaching Excellence Award in recognition for her demonstrated commitment to and excellence in teaching, advising, and mentoring students in Women's and Gender Studies and for her extensive service both to the university and to the at-large community, especially in domestic violence.

Cynthia Buckley (Sociology) moderated the 2008 Eurasian Studies Training Workshop for Junior Scholars: "Gendering Democracy: Self, State, and Political Reform in Eurasia and Beyond," June 11-13, 2008. Hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the workshop sessions were devoted to a discussion of the participants' research; investigation of current literature and paradigms; and a presentation of scholarly resources, including relevant databases by staff specialists from the Slavic and East European Library.

Marlene A. Dixon (Kinesiology & Health Education) coauthored an article related to work and family in the sport industry. "Situating work-family negotiations within a life course perspective: Insights on the gendered experiences of NCAA Division I head coaching mothers" can be found in the January edition of *Sex Roles*.

Laura Furman (English) was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for 2008-09.



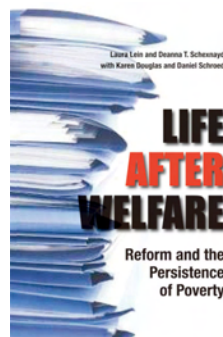
Dr. Phil Doty presents the 2007-2008 Gilbert WGS Teaching Excellence Award to Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz.

Benjamin Gregg (Government) published "Translating Human Rights into Muslim Vernaculars" in *Comparative Sociology* 7 (2008) 1-27.

Sabine Hake (Germanic Studies) has published a second and revised edition of *German National Cinema* (London: Routledge, 2008), which has become the standard English-language history of German film, with translations in German and Japanese.



Robert Jensen's (Journalism) latest book, *Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity*, was published in September 2007 by South End Press. Jensen also helped produce a PowerPoint slide show on pornography with a script that is available from stoppornculture@gmail.com.



Laura Lein (Social Work) completed a book with Deanna Schexnayder and with Karen Douglas and Daniel Shroeder titled *Life After Welfare: Reform and the Persistence of Poverty* (University of Texas Press, 2007). The book investigates the long-term effects of the welfare reforms of the late 1990s and uses a multi-method approach as it follows 179 families living in Texas.

Cynthia Osborne (LBJ School of Public Affairs) received the Texas Exes Teaching Award in February 2008. In addition, she recently published two articles in the Journal of Marriage and Family that explore various aspects of marital and non-marital relationship instability and its effects on young children. She was also invited by the Center for Family and Demographic Research at Bowling Green State University to present her research on the cumulative risks children are exposed to at birth and the subsequent effects these risks have on healthy development.

Dr. Michele Rountree (Social Work) has been selected as a Scholar Mentee for the 2008 African American Mental Health Research Scientist (AAMHRS) Consortium. The goal of the AAMHRS Consortium is to increase the number of African American scholars who receive NIMH funding. As such, Dr. Rountree will be partnered with an experienced NIMH or NIH funded research scientist who will collaborate with her throughout the grant writing experience.

Helene Tissières (French and Italian) had a book come out recently, *Ecritures en Transhumance Entre Maghreb et Afrique Subsaharienne: Literature, Oralité, Arts Visuels*.

(L'Harmattan, Paris, 2007). This book is the first to deal with multiple traffic crossing literary works written in French, from the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa. From many examples of literature and analyzing in depth of Abdelwahad novels Medded, Werewere Liking, Tchicaya U Tam'Si, Assia Djebar, the book examines four key circulations: geographic, between Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa; historical and cultural, between past and present; verbal, between oral and writing; aesthetic, between literature and painting.



Jan Todd (Kinesiology & Health Education) was promoted to full Professor this year, effective fall 2008.

Kathleen Tyner (Radio-Television-Film) participated in a task force for the Alliance of Civilizations First Forum on January 15-16, 2008 in Madrid, Spain. The Alliance of Civilizations is a United Nations project, directed by the former President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio. The First Forum was attended by political leaders, representatives of international and regional



CWGS, in partnership with Legal Momentum, held a panel discussion on the nexus between state and national political policy and the ability from women and girls from all socioeconomic classes to access comprehensive health care.

bodies, donor agencies, civil society groups and foundations to explore ways of addressing the growing polarization between nations and cultures worldwide and develop partnerships to promote cross-cultural understanding globally. Professor Tyner is a member of the task force to create a media literacy clearinghouse. To find out more, visit: <http://www.madridaocforum.org/>

Lynn Westbrook (School of Information) has published several articles:

"E-Government Access to Social Service Information: State Web Resources for Domestic Violence Survivors." with Dee Dee Davenport and Jennifer Richey in the Journal of the American Society of Information Science and Technology

"E-Government Support for People in Crisis: An Evaluation of Police Department Web Site Support for Domestic Violence Survivors Using 'Person-in-Situation' Information Need Analysis" in Library and Information Science Research

"Understanding Crisis Information Needs in Context: The Case of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors" in Library Quarterly.

James Wilson (History) is the 2008 recipient of the Fifth Annual Award for Distinction in Teaching presented by Phi Beta Kappa for the Alpha of Texas Chapter.

If you are not a CWGS Faculty Affiliate but have similar research interests, please join us!

Contact Kathleen McDonagh at mckath@mail.utexas.edu

Community Advisory Board Spotlight:

Cathy Bonner



Cathy Bonner exemplifies a life of vision, leadership and passionate commitment to public service: over the past 35 years, she has created the Rape Prevention and Control Project; contributed to the Child Advocacy Center; begun a women's leadership

organization with over 5000 alumnae; founded The Women's Museum in Dallas, Texas; managed a multimillion-dollar firm; and proposed a bond initiative that created the \$3 billion Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. As *Woman's Day* magazine wrote in 2003 in the citation for its "Women Who Inspire Us" award: Bonner is one of the "women who push themselves to extraordinary limits – lending a helping hand in their communities, building support networks, and making the world a better place for us all."

A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Bonner has been a long-time friend and supporter to the university. As a founding member of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies' Community Advisory Board, Bonner was instrumental in creating the School Partnership Program between CWGS and the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. She is a member of the Longhorn Women Leaders Association, a regular supporter of KLRU, and can often be seen at Lady Longhorn basketball games. Through Dean Roderick Hart's American Trustees project, she cultivates civic participation among Texas youth.

An entrepreneur in the fields of communication, marketing, and cable television, Cathy Bonner has received numerous professional awards from organizations including Women in Communications, Inc.; the Texas Public Relations Association; and the American Council for Economic Development. In March 2001, *Fortune* magazine named Bonner one of the 25 most influential women entrepreneurs in America, saying she is "smart, gutsy, and innovative--as interested in making a difference as in making money." In 2004, she received the Office Depot Visionary Award for her "extraordinary dedication and vision."

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Cathy Bonner currently resides in Austin and enjoys mini-triathlons and golf in her free time.

CWGS Awards News

Presented during the CWGS Annual Spring Reception, the following awards recognize and reward both the scholarship and service of our WGS students and faculty.

WGS Graduate Student Dissertation Awards:

Designed to encourage WGS scholarship at the graduate level, the WGS Graduate Student Dissertation Awards are given each spring to deserving graduate students researching feminist or gender-related topics. The winners for 2008 were **Allison Layne Parish Craig** (English, Ph.D.), whose dissertation was titled *Birth Control Movement Rhetoric in Women's Literature, 1915-1939*; and **Christina Leigh Murphey** (Nursing, Ph.D.), whose dissertation was titled *Oral Health Among Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Women: A Mixed Methods Study*.

Ellen Clarke Temple Graduate Award:

This award provides support for Liberal Arts graduate students to aid students' travel, research, and other similar needs in the study of the women in American history. This year three students were award recipients: **Caroline Hopkins Wigginton** (English, Ph.D.) for her work *Intimate Words: Women's Writing and Community in Eighteenth-Century America*; **John F. Cline** (American Studies, Ph.D.) for his paper *Theoretical Girls: The Origins of Third Wave Feminism in the Post-Punk Lower East Side*; and **Gretchen Elizabeth Voter** (WGS, M.A.) for her paper *Historical Memory as Political Activism: The Foundation for Women's Resources and the Legacy of Second Wave Feminism in Texas*.

Graduate Student Contributor of the Year:

For her service to the center, in particular her student mentoring work, **Ganiva Reyes** (WGS, M.A.), was named graduate student contributor of the year.



Award winners Allison Layne Parish Craig and Christina Murphey, pose with Dr. Rebecca Bigler. Our annual scholarships are made possible by gifts from various donors.

Give to the CENTER *for* WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

We invite all members of the community who are concerned with gender equity and the issues facing women, girls, and families to support our programs.

You can invest in the Center and provide opportunities to students and faculty through either planned giving or outright gifts that often carry special tax incentives.

If you would like to make a gift, please mail your pledge to:

Kathleen Aronson
Director of Development and Alumni
Relations
College of Liberal Arts
GEB 4.308
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78712

Or Visit:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/giving/>

You may also e-mail Kathleen Aronson at mcaronson@mail.utexas.edu or call 512 475-9763 to receive more information.

Please indicate your gift is for the Center for Women's & Gender Studies. Thank you for your support!

\$ Looking for funding? \$

Our annual awards are made possible by gifts from various donors. Undergraduate and Graduate students from *all departments* are eligible to apply for these awards. Graduate awards require enrollment in the WGS Portfolio Program.

The **Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship**: is awarded each spring to a deserving WGS undergraduate who has earned distinction in WGS scholarship and service. The **Lora Romero Memorial Award** for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity and Gender will be awarded to a graduate student in memory of former UT colleague, Lora Romero. The **Ellen Clarke Temple Graduate Award** provides support for graduate students of Liberal Arts for travel, research, and other needs in the study of the women in American history, particularly in Texas or the Southwest. The **WGS Graduate Student Dissertation Award** is given to deserving graduate students who are doing research on a feminist or gender-related topic. This award is designed to encourage WGS scholarship at the graduate level.

Next year's applications will be available online in January 2009:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/awards/>

We encourage you to apply!

300 Club Original Founding Members:

Carmelina Cutro Albino, FL; Jean Andrews, Community; Jacqueline Angel, LBJ School; Katie Arens, Germanic Languages; Cheryl Armbrust, Community; Judith Bailey, Community; Nancy Baker Jones, Community; Suzanne Barber, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Ann R. Barker, Community; Peg Berdahl, Honorary Member; Jan Beyer, Management; Rebecca Bigler, Psychology; Mary Blitch, Honorary Member; Dorothy Blodgett, Community; Terrell Blodgett, Professor Emeritus; Carla Blumberg, Former Austinite; Laura Burney, San Antonio; Illene Busch-Vishniac, Johns Hopkins University; Elizabeth Butler Cullingford, English; Susan Cassano, Community; Frances Cushing, Community; Jess Chapin, UT Alumna; Chris Cowden, Women & Their Work; Shannon Davies, Community; Desley Deacon, American Studies; Miriam DeFord, Community; Millie Douglas, Community; Laurie Eiserloh, UT Alumna; Donald L. Evans, Chairman, UT System Board of Regents; Rolland Fellows, Community; Elizabeth Fernea, English; Priscilla and Peter T. Flawn, Former UT President and President *ad-interim*; Betty Sue Flowers, English; Forbidden Fruit, Community; Carol Fredericks, Community; James Garrison, Chair, English; Lucia & Jack Gilbert, Ed. Psych. & Chemistry; Melissa C. Gilbert, CA; Katherine Giltinan, Art Education (UT Graduate Student); Sue Grobe, Nursing; Barbara Harlow, English; Harriett Harrow, Community; Hillary Hart, Civil Engineering; Susan Heinzelman, English; Diane Henson, Community; Allison Hewitt, Development Office; Martha Hilley, Music; Joanna Hitchcock, UT Press; Martha Hudson, Community; Ted Huston, Human Ecology; Luci Baines Johnson, Community; Theresa Kelley, English; Ronya Kozmetsky, Community; Berf Kreitier, Friend of Women's Studies; Judy Langlois, Psychology; Alice Lawler, Community; Laura Lein, Social Work; George Lenox, Honorary Member; Carol MacKay, English; Margaret Magness, Community; Fawn Mahajan, M.E.L.C.; Linda Manning, TN; Susan Marshall, Sociology; Chris Maziar,

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Bibliographer's Corner

by Lindsey Schell

With the LGBTQ Research Cluster entering its fourth year there is no doubt queer studies has a well-earned spotlight on campus. A common refrain in the field is that not enough attention is paid to the “T” in LGBT. Taking note of this issue, I have attempted to build up our research collections with recent materials on transgender studies. Through collaborative funding with the social sciences librarian, UT Libraries has recently begun a subscription to the *International Journal of Transgenderism*, published by Haworth Press. Recent article titles include *Legitimizing Transsexualism*, *One-Stage Sex Reassignment Surgery from Female to Male*, *Building a Better World for Transpeople: Reed Erickson and the Erickson Educational Foundation*, *Transgender Primary Medical Care*, and *Ethical, Legal, and Psychosocial Issues in Care of Transgender Adolescents*. Recent monographic titles of note include:

Transgender Voices : Beyond Women and Men. Girshick, Lori.
Hanover : University Press of New England, c2008.
PCL Stacks HQ 77.7 G57 2008

Imagining Transgender : an Ethnography of a Category.
Valentine, David.
Durham : Duke University Press, 2007.
PCL Stacks HQ 77.7V35 2007

Transgender on Screen. Phillips, John.
Basingstoke [England] ; New York : Palgrave Macmillan,
2006.
PCL Stacks PN 1995.9 T69 P35 2006

Transgender Rights
Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, c2006.
PCL Stacks HQ 77.9 T716 2006

The Transgender Phenomenon. Ekins, Richard.
London ; Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE, 2006.
PCL Stacks HQ 77.9 E55 2006

The Transgender Studies Reader.
New York : Routledge, 2006.
PCL Catalog – Ebook

Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working With Gender-Variant People and Their Families. Lev, Arlene Istar.

New York : The Haworth Clinical Practice Press, c2004.
PCL Stacks RC 560 G45 L48 2004

Transparent : Love, Family, and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers. Beam, Cris.
Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, c2007.
PCL Stacks HQ 77.95 U6 B43 2007

In a Queer Time and Place : Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives. Halberstam, Judith.
New York : New York University Press, c2005.
PCL Stacks HQ 75.5 H335 2005

Trans/forming Feminisms : Trans/feminist Voices Speak Out.
Toronto : Sumach Press, c2006.
PCL Stacks HQ 77.9 T715 2006

These titles are showing extremely high circulation rates, so submitting a recall request may be required. If there are additional materials you would like the Library to acquire, please let me know: schell@mail.utexas.edu.

Lindsey Schell is the Women's and Gender Studies Library Specialist. A listing of UT Library Subject Specialists can be found here: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/admin/cird/bibliographer/bibsubject.html>

At Home in Women's Studies - Continued

times to connect about life and work with friends across the campus. And, last year, when I decided to leave the University to move to New Mexico and devote more time to fiction writing and creative work, the colleagues most supportive of the changes I wanted to make were associated with WGS. For me, the most important things a university community can provide are mentorship, intellectual and creative stimulation, personal connections, and a place to celebrate each other's accomplishments and discoveries. I found all of these in Women's and Gender Studies and I carry them with me—freely disseminating my version of them where I am now—to this day.

Lynn C. Miller left The University of Texas at Austin, where she was Professor of Theatre and Women's Studies, in August 2007 to found WriteSpace International in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she coaches individuals and groups in writing and developing creative approaches to thinking and life change. You may call Lynn at 505-918-5978, email her at lynn@lynncmiller.com, or visit www.lynncmiller.com.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Prudence Komujinya

Women's Rights in Uganda: A Case Study of the Elusive Domestic Relations Bill

Much of the literature on women's rights in Uganda has tended to focus on women in politics and women's marginal rights without exploring the factors that are at play in determining the status of women in Uganda. The country's state politics, religion and culture have had a significant influence on the struggle for women's rights in Uganda. This thesis specifically focuses on how these factors have impacted The Domestic Relations Bill (DRB). The bill seeks to reform and consolidate the laws relating to marriage, separation and divorce; to provide for the types of recognized marriages, marital rights and duties, grounds for breakdown of marriage and rights of parties on dissolution of marriage.

For more than a decade, the DRB has been languishing in parliament. This paper further investigates the factors that have hindered the bill from being debated and enacted into law. The research provided for this thesis will increase awareness on the DRB and make recommendations that could help advance the bill. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the enhancement of women's rights in Uganda.

Thesis Supervisor: Gretchen Ritter



carnavalesque experience. In addition, the report also employs the theory of a "female grotesque" by Mary Russo. It addresses how the marginalization of women in Afro-Cuban Tales is in fact a part of grotesque realism and how these events of bodily degradation fit into Russo's female grotesque.

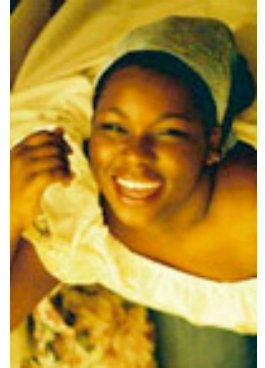
Report Supervisor: Dr. Helena Woodard

Azure D. Osborne-Lee

Filling the Void: the Effects of the Internet on Black Women's Hair Culture in the United States of America

This report examines African-American women's hair culture and hair care practices. It focuses on the history of black women's hair care in the United States, in particular, how the region of the country in which a woman resides influences her decision about whether or not to relax, or chemically straighten, her hair. This report proposes that urban areas in the United States tend to contain more black women with natural hair, while rural areas and many cities in the South are often home to more black women who relax their hair. The paper goes on to examine how the internet has allowed for the formation of communities, forums, and other websites that provide black women in all regions of the country and the world access to resources that promote natural hair.

Report Supervisor: Dr. Tiffany Gill



Brandi Matthews-James

The Role of Women and the Grotesque in Lydia Cabrera's Afro-Cuban Tales

The punishment and marginalization of women is a common characteristic in many Cuban tales. This report is a discussion of Lydia Cabrera's Afro-Cuban Tales. This text is written in the African Yoruba tradition, thus employing Yoruba deities and symbolism their tales. In textual analyses of these tales, Mikhail Bakhtin's theory of the "carnavalesque grotesque" and his notion of "grotesque realism" are employed. Grotesque realism and other theories by Bakhtin are a part of the analysis in the marginalization of women in these tales. This report concentrates on how the degradation of women through "grotesque realism" and how punishment is a part of the



Students enjoy conversation during the Spring Awards Reception. For more information on giving to CWGS, please see page 9.



Naomi Wolf addresses students during an event on positive body image sponsored by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies and the Woodhull Institute.

You are cordially invited to the
Center for Women's & Gender Studies
Annual Fall Reception.

Date/Time TBA*

Please join us!

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We are located on the 4th floor of Walter Web Hall,
also known as the Campus Club building.

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/>



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MA Program Time Line:

Application Deadline: Dec 15th
 Notifications Begin: March 15th
 Admissions Finalized: May 15th
 New Student Orientation: Late August

*visit our website for information and updates